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Sally Dresses in the South American Way

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Sally Dresses in

the South

American Way

With an eye to spring, Dorothy Lee Conquest advises rejuvenating those mid-winter outfits

COME out of that winter shell! Looking enviably at travel folders and southern posters will take you nowhere. Show that your imagination works in perfect harmony with your desires. A new color, a bit of a frill or a new hat erases those mid-winter blues.

The ‘South American way’ is sweeping the country. Pan-American good will seems cemented for all time when you wear boleros, rhumba skirts, talk about the piquant possibilities of a Bolivian bowler or a chullo veil. Watch the intriguing colors like chili sauce red, Bahama brown, Lima lemon, fandango reel, fiesta purple, Brazilian beige.

This spring is expected to bring out a greater variety of brilliant, vibrant hues and soft pastels than ever before. One color is known as “windswept”, the soft greyed green of sea foam. Another is wisteria, reminiscent of grandmother’s lavender, but usually made in sophisticated styles.

Prints will be larger and brighter, according to fashion authorities. A certain harbinger of spring is a boldly flowered silk dress, made with just the right tucks, folds and gathers to give the figure the proper curves or slimming straightness.

To return to solid colors, navy blue and beige to brown seem to be the catchwords for spring. Navy is always dependable. That’s the color you can so easily touch up with bits of any hue. And it seems fresh and good and clean after a stuffy winter. Watch red as an important contrasting color. It appears in hats, purses, gloves and scarves.

Beige comes in shades ranging from off-white to a deep honey color. A suit of beige tweed bound in brown velvetine is a perfect symbol of this year’s suit. It’s tailored, but with softening detail, womanly without being fussy.

The slim straight suit with a 28-inch jacket is a favorite of smart women. With the college woman, who loves her skirts short and her jackets long, the narrow line is bound to become a special pet. The walking room she demands in any skirt is given by sharp pleats or well placed tucks.

The ensemble has been rediscovered as a pretty practical solution to the what-to-wear problem. For a college week-end, nothing could be finer than a pastel.
wool dress topped with a long coat of the same color and material. And the wool is as soft and fine as the sheep and the manufacturer can make it.

Look for the silk dress topped by a hip length tailored jacket, the long fitted waist, the extremely short skirt, the wide pleated ruffle at the hemline, shoulders that slope and waistlines that pucker. They’re all steadily rising to the top on fashion’s hit parade.

When Fashion daintily cracks her whip, you all jump, into what? Those darlings of the fashion world, suits and coats and dresses on the army and navy theme entrance you. Along with the patriotic craze for red, white and blue comes a great show of embroidered gold eagles, gold buttons, service stripes and mildly effects. Your mother wore them and still likes them.

She’ll adore seeing you return to the “good old days,” and you won’t mind a bit. Try, for example, a navy suit with a midshipman’s collar and the long tunic lines, with an eagle spread on your sleeve in gold and bright buttons down the front.

Accessories have picked up the trend and are appearing with navy anchors and military insignia as important trims. Be sparing, however, in your use of the patriotic theme. There’s no need to appear a “daughter of the regiment.”

Buttons and ribbons, flowers and feathers gaily trim spring chapeaux. Red straw is a favorite as a perfect contrast for navy. Buttons are big and little, and are sewn around the hatband or atop the crown. Ribbons loop and stream out behind, but not as importantly as before.

Flowers can be, and are, of any kind. They are perky and upstanding or lie smoothly and calmly on the brim. Feathers now sometimes fashion an entire hat, like the precious feather capes of tribal chiefs of the South Seas. Perhaps it's a swooping bird that is made of feathers and placed at just the right angle on the crown. But don’t feel poverty stricken if your hat boasts only one feather, that’s quite enough.

Night clothes come under two headings. There are the frivolous silk and satin dainties, lovely to look at but not much good for the dorm on cold winter nights. For Iowa winters we unswervingly choose flannelette gowns and pajamas.

They’re charming as well as utilitarian. Choose a sweet night cap to match or contrast your flannels and keep your ears warm. The English know how to make bed socks. The best are knitted of soft wool and tie at the top.

The trend is back to handicraft again. Hand-knit sweaters and jackets, mittens and hats are even smarter if you “did it yourself.” New directions help do away with that home-made look most of us fear. Now’s the time to start a luscious thick angora jacket for this summer’s formals. You’ll be glad you did it.

Want to look ahead into summer? You’ll probably be wearing off-white from formals to playsuits. New playsuits will have more of the short, slightly flared skirts than just plain shorts. Fashion forecasters say that white pique will be popular for sports. Playsuits will be both of the bare-midriff and the cover-up variety.

A formal can be a sophisticated horizontal flower-stripe or rayon jersey or a sweet, simple cotton for a demure look. More hats will be worn this summer. They’ll be the comfortable kind that keep your hair in place and keep you fresher and neater looking.

Pleated interpretation of the narrow silhouette is a great favorite. Because pleats assert a narrow line with perfect ease and no restriction of movement, they are especially adaptable. Tiny pleats, making a pretty play of surface effect and scarcely discernible as pleats at a distance, are the newest for evening.

Sally finds that dresses have long body lines in an elongated basque bodice. It’s proved that this smooth line below the waist is an essential for this year’s smartest fashions.